

a Flag p 116-7

Chapter Eight

The Provo Valley Mission

No one was happier to see the war's end than was Joseph. It had cost him his prosperous ranch at Carson Valley, the finest home he ever hoped to have. But at last he could devote full time and energy to developing his property at White's Fort and improving his home at American Fork. He soon had to enlarge his little cabin at White's Fort, for on October 9th, 1858 Willard Milton, always called Pilt, was born to Jane, while Elizibeth gave birth to Parley Alexander only a few months later, on February 3rd, 1859. And Charlotte Ellen was born to Eliza at American Fork on March 17th, 1860.

With the war over, his brother Nymphus took a second wife. Nymphus married Ester Maria Davis, and although it was sometimes a stormy marriage, their union brought him nine children in addition to the four children born to his first wife. His second marriage was often a trial for Nymphus, for unlike most polygamous marriages, his two wives never got along well. Eventually he had to build separate homes for each of them. Joseph had never even dreamed of taking another wife, but within another year as strange a story as could be imagined gave him a fifth wife.

The Utah War had forever severed Utah's isolation from the east. Every day more and more gentiles were moving into the territory, many attracted by Camp Floyd, General Johnston's new army post in Cedar Valley. Others were attracted by the lucrative business opportunities while rich mining strikes enticed still others. Joseph's adopted Indian girl, Pernetta, had now grown into a beautiful young woman 16 years of age. She had been raised by Eunice at American Fork and had become a well educated and refined young lady. A young gentile man had become attracted to her, and both Eunice and Joseph were concerned that she might be lured away from both family and church by him. Joseph went to his friend Brigham Young and asked for his counsel and guidance. Brigham listened closely, and then to Joseph's shock and dismay, he advised Joseph to marry Pernetta!

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Joseph was greatly disturbed by Brigham's counsel, and told him that he couldn't do such a thing. He explained that he had raised Pernetta from a child as his own daughter, and had cared for her and educated her as one of his own

children. Nevertheless, Brigham again told Joseph that it was his advice that Joseph should marry Pernetta. Joseph left Salt Lake City in a daze and returned to American Fork where he agonized long and hard over the strange guidance which Brigham had given him. Joseph never questioned any instruction or direction given him by either the Prophet Joseph or by Brigham Young, so two weeks later he returned to Salt Lake City and sought the same advice from Brigham again. And again the Mormon leader told Joseph that it was his advice and counsel that he should marry Pernetta, and he told Joseph that if he did so, it was his prophecy that Pernetta would give him a fine family which would be an honor to his name and that the marriage would also promote an even closer bond between Joseph and his Lamanite brothers, which blessing would one day be of great value to both Joseph and his church. On June 25th, 1859 Joseph and Pernetta were married by Brigham Young in the Endowment House at Salt Lake City.

Pernetta was 16 years old when she married, while Joseph was 37. In time she gave him five fine children. Those who remember her say she was a beautiful woman, having few Indian features. Her children were all properly raised and were well educated, and her home was always an example of cleanliness and beauty. Pernetta was a hard worker and often took in washing or ironing from neighbors to help with the family finances. Unfortunately, no photograph of Pernetta is known to exist.

Joseph was now busier than ever, building a new home for his fifth wife while attending to all of his other responsibilities. He had little time to ponder the strange events which had happened to him since he left New York to join the Prophet Joseph, or wonder what was ahead. Little did he suspect that he would soon be honored by Brigham Young for his years of faithful service, or that that honor would once more stretch his faith and courage to the breaking point.

When Joseph first built a home for Eunice at American Fork and helped Nymphus build his mother's home at Salt Lake City he had to go into the canyons to cut logs, for there was no timber growing in the Salt Lake Valley. He had hauled logs for his Salt Lake City home from Bingham Canyon, and when he built a cabin at White's Fort he ventured into the steep, rocky canyons between Parley's Canyon and the Provo River Canyon at Fort Utah. He hauled some saw logs from Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons and some from American Fork Canyon. He also helped others cut logs for their homes. During the Indian